

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MAY 4, 2022  
7:00 P.M.  
Town Hall Meeting Room, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT  
Hybrid Meeting**

**Selectmen present:** Colin Moll, Kathleen Harrington, Mel Chafetz, Pete Hill and Jerry Mahoney

**Also present in person or via Zoom:** Town Attorney Derek Donnelly, Planning and Development Director Bill Hawkins, President of Planimetrics Glenn Chalder, BOE Business Manager Bill Hoff, and Library Commission Chair Austin Roberts

**First Selectman Moll** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Selectman Harrington** motioned to amend the agenda to move item #15 to item #11A and change the wording to read “Executive Session - Discussion with Labor Attorney, Town Attorney, Police Chief and Police Commission Chair.”

Attorney Donnelly suggested the wording should include the subject matter of the Executive Session discussion which is “*upcoming union negotiations.*”

**Selectman Harrington** amended the motion per Attorney Donnelly’s suggestion. **Vote: 4 in favor (Moll, Harrington, Hill and Mahoney and 1 abstain (Chafetz.) Motion passed.**

**Public Comment**

**Bill Sullivan, 185 N. Main Street - Mr. Sullivan** thanked the board for all of their efforts on the Tamar’s Witness Stone proposal and stated he would be in the audience and available to answer any questions.

**Kristina Hallett, 1211 Newgate Road – Ms. Hallett** expressed her hope that the decision will be made this evening to put the Tamar’s Witness Stone on Lot 272A. She also wanted to make all aware that a Pride Celebration will be taking place on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Town Green and recognition of Juneteenth will be included at the upcoming Suffield Summer Fair.

**Lester Smith, 39 Marbern Drive – Mr. Smith**, the Town Historian, expressed his feelings regarding Tamar’s Witness Stone saying that he feels it is important that we are beginning to recognize the humanity of individual slaves; he supports the Witness Stone Program and hopes the Board of Selectmen will take action this evening and move forward with the placement on Lot 272A.

**Ted Ruddock, 15 High Street – Mr. Ruddock** expressed his support of the placement of Tamar’s Witness Stone on Lot 272A feeling it is a very appropriate location.

**Amy Healy, 210 Academy Drive – Ms. Healy** expressed her support for the Tamar Witness Stone to be located on Lot 272A. She expressed her thoughts on the process thus far and the important message that comes with placing the stone on the front of the property versus the back.

**Bob & Kerry White, 995 Newgate Road – Ms. White** supports the proposed location of Tamar’s Witness Stone on Lot 272A which is prominent and visible to all. **Mr. White** also supports the proposed location.

**Liz Warren, 185 North Main Street – Ms. Warren** expressed her thoughts on Tamar’s Witness Stone and the need for it to be placed in a prominent spot. She is hopeful that the board will make a decision this evening and place the stone in the proposed location on Lot 272A.

**Andi Prusi, 3925 Phelps Road – Ms. Prusi** expressed her support for the placement of Tamar’s Witness Stone. **Ms. Prusi** is hopeful that the town, if truly committed to equity, inclusion and diversity, will place the stone in the front of Lot 272A.

**Approval of the minutes from the April 20, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

**Selectman Harrington** motioned to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. **Vote: 4 in favor (Moll, Chafetz, Harrington and Mahoney) and 1 abstain (Hill.) Vote: Motion passed.**

**Open public hearing for Affordable Housing Plan**

**First Selectman Moll** opened the public hearing for the Affordable Housing Plan and invited **Planning & Development Director Bill Hawkins** and **Glenn Chalder, President of Planimetrics**, to address the selectmen. **Mr. Hawkins** provided a brief recap of the actions that have been taken thus far as they pertain to the Affordable Housing Plan and what will be needed to complete the process. **Mr. Chalder** also addressed the selectmen briefly and explained the work that has been done on this subject over the past year. First Selectman Moll provided an opportunity for the members of the public to speak on the Affordable Housing Plan.

**Close public hearing for Affordable Housing Plan**

**Selectman Hill** motioned to close the public hearing for Affordable Housing Plan. **Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Discussion and approval to adopt the Affordable Housing Plan**

**Selectman Harrington** motioned that the Board of Selectmen adopts the 2022-27 Suffield Housing Plan as endorsed by the Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee and as revised through April 27, 2022. **Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Call Town Meeting for May 11, 2022 to approve Fiscal Year 2022-23**

**Selectman Hill** read the following:

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING 2022-2023**

**TOWN OF SUFFIELD**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Budget Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, qualified to vote in Town Meeting, will be held at the Auditorium in

Suffield Middle School, 350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT on Wednesday, **May 11, 2022** at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes to wit:

1. To consider and act upon the report and Town budget recommendations of the Board of Finance and to make such appropriations in connection therewith as may be advisable.
2. To consider and act upon the use and expenditure of American Recovery Plan Act funds as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.
3. To approve an additional authorization outside of the Town budget of \$485,625 in expenditures for the Quarry Road bridge replacement to be offset by a grant of \$485,625.
4. To consider and act upon a motion authorizing the Board of Finance to print and distribute explanatory texts concerning the budget, if the budget is petitioned to referendum. Such texts may not advocate approval or disapproval of the budget and must conform to the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 9-369b.

Dated at Suffield, Connecticut this 4th day of May, 2022.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Colin Moll, First Selectman  
Mel Chafetz, Selectman  
Kathleen Harrington, Selectman  
Peter Hill, Selectman  
Jeremiah Mahoney, Selectman

**Selectman Hill motioned to approve the call of the Town Meeting for May 11, 2022 to approve Fiscal Year 2022-23. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Discussion to transfer funds from contingency to Board of Education to complete Family Consumer Science Room and repair of front columns and refer to Board of Finance**

**First Selectman Moll** invited **BOE Business Manager Bill Hoff** to present to the selectmen on the request for a transfer of funds to complete two projects at the Suffield High School. **Mr. Hoff** referenced a memo he had sent in advance to the entire board describing the two projects up for discussion this evening; 1) Completion of Family Consumer Science Room and 2) Repair of front columns. **Mr. Hoff** described each in detail as far as the original project, the change in scope since initial discussions and the reason for the additional costs involved since initial bids. Discussion ensued between the selectmen and **Mr. Hoff**.

**Selectman Chafetz** asked how much the costs have gone up as a percentage since the initial discussions a year and a half ago. **Mr. Hoff** stated it was a 15% - 20% increase

**Selectman Mahoney** asked for confirmation that the total request from contingency is in excess of \$130,000. **Mr. Hoff** confirmed this to be accurate.

**Selectman Hill** noted that the Board of Selectmen were not part of the process when this originally went through and wanted to inquire as to whether the Bid and Purchase Policy had been followed. **Mr. Hoff** stated that the policy had been followed and provided detail as to what had been done. **Selectman Hill** went on to ask about what items have already been purchased with grant funds and what the expected surplus is for the BOE budget. **Mr. Hoff** provided a list of items that were purchased and reported that at this time they are projecting a little over \$300,000 for the BOE expected surplus.

**Attorney Donnelly** asked for clarification on whether the transfer threshold of the budget would be exceeded and Mr. Hoff stated we would not be if the projects are approved separately.

**First Selectman Moll** asked Mr. Hoff what will stop him from coming back to the board again next year to ask for additional contingency funds. **Mr. Hoff** provided a response, assuring the First Selectman that he would not be back unless it was some type of emergency.

**Selectman Mahoney** asked if the projects could be put into next year's budget. **Mr. Hoff** said it could be done, however, it would require the projects to go out to bid yet again if we held off.

**Selectman Harrington** expressed her concerns on the significant scope changes in both projects which are now resulting in costs that are basically doubled. She feels it might be wiser to put them into the next budget and go through the bid process again. If the decision is made to wait, it will result in the project being put off until next summer.

**Attorney Donnelly** explained that the two projects need to be handled separately from a motion standpoint when they are being voted upon this evening. He reiterated the rationale behind this requirement.

**Selectman Chafetz** motioned to approve the completion of the Family Consumer Science Room project renovations at a cost of \$309,179 and refer to the Board of Finance.

**Selectmen Hill** questioned **Mr. Hoff** on where the expected BOE surplus of \$300,000 will be going and wondered why they would not use that money to fund the projects in question. **Mr. Hill** feels this surplus should be used. **Mr. Hoff** argued why this would not be a wise idea and noted a number of other items he felt the surplus might be used. **First Selectman Moll** agreed with Mr. Hill on the use of the surplus.

**Selectmen Harrington** wanted to state for the record that should one of the selectman vote against the motion on the table, it does not necessarily mean they are in favor of using the expected BOE surplus funds.

**Vote: 1 in favor (Chafetz) and 4 against (Moll, Harrington, Hill and Mahoney.) Motioned failed.**

**Selectman Mahoney** motioned to table the consideration of the column repair. **Vote: 4 in favor (Moll, Harrington, Hill and Mahoney) and 1 against (Chafetz.) Motion passed.**

#### **Discussion and approval of increase to Library Director's Salary**

**First Selectman Moll** noted that this topic was discussed at the last Board of Selectmen meeting and additional information and paperwork was required. Since then, there have been additional discussions and clarifications have been made. **Selectman Mahoney** discussed his concerns, perceptions and understanding of how the endowment funds would be connected to the Library Directors Salary. Discussion ensued with regard to the intent of the Library Commission with regard to the Endowment

funds. **Library Commission Chair Austin Roberts** and **Board of Finance Member Chris Childs** also addressed the selectmen to provide clarity on the issue.

**Selectman Harrington motioned to approve an increase to the Library Director's Salary of up to \$85,000.**

**Mr. Childs** suggested that the motion include the increase be applicable to not only salary but also benefits.

**Selectman Harrington accepted Mr. Childs's recommendation and added this to the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Selectman Harrington motioned to refer the increase to salary and benefits to the Board of Finance. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Discussion and approval of Tamar's Witness Stone location**

**Selectman Mahoney** discussed comments by proponents of Tamar's Witness Stone that seemed to demonstrate an unwillingness to see any other point of view. He went on to explain the rationale behind the decision making process and why it took the amount of time that it did. He feels that we have come to an agreement as to where the stone should be located. Selectman Harrington also expressed concerns that she had as far as the comments made especially as they related to the length of time involved in coming to a decision and emphasized the fact that the board has supported the project from the beginning

**Selectman Hill motioned to approve the placement of Tamar's Witness Stone 24 inches from the sidewalk on Lot 272A. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Discussion of roles for Ex-officio members**

**First Selectman Moll** explained that the role of an ex-officio member was recently brought to his attention. **Town Attorney Donnelly** addressed the selectmen and explained the state statutes, our specific town charter and the rules adopted by each specific commission and how they all have an impact on the roles of the ex-officio members. All are now in agreement as to how to interact in a meeting environment when acting as an ex-officio member.

### **Executive Session - Discussion with Labor Attorney, Town Attorney, Police Chief and Police Commission Chairperson regarding upcoming Union Negotiations**

**Selectman Hill motioned to enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss upcoming union negotiations and invited the Town Labor Attorney, Town Attorney, Police Chief and Police Commission Chairperson. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Executive Session ended at 8:52 p.m.**

### **Action Taken on Executive Session**

**No action taken.**

### **Discussion of Police Schedule**

**First Selectman Moll** noted that the police schedule set forth in the Police Arbitration Agreement has not been implemented as of yet, however, it will be in place by July 1, 2022.

### **Selectmen Updates**

#### **Public Hearing**

**First Selectman Moll** noted that the Public Hearing on the FY 2022-23 budget was held last week with very light attendance. He thanked those who came out to participate.

#### **Town Meeting – May 11, 2022**

On Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium the Town Meeting for the Budget Approval will be held.

#### **Thank you – Suffield High School Sustainability Council**

**First Selectman Moll** thanked the Suffield High School Sustainability Council for inviting him to join them in their Walk to the Hart event which was done to raise awareness of climate change.

#### **Thank you – Suffield High School 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Class**

**First Selectman Moll** thanked the Suffield High School 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Class for inviting him to come and speak to them on local government and potential upcoming projects.

#### **PMC Kids Ride**

**First Selectman Moll** reminded all that the PMC Kids Ride will be held this Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Suffield Middle School.

#### **Mountain Road Multi-Use Trail**

Construction is going well and on schedule for completion at the end of June.

#### **CRCOG LOTCIP Funding**

CRCOG recently voted to endorse their 2022 LOTCIP Funding and we will wait for final approval on the two Town of Suffield projects.

#### **Reaffirmation of Inclusivity Statement**

**First Selectman Moll** reaffirmed the previously adopted Board of Selectmen Inclusivity Statement as follows:

*“The Town of Suffield is committed to fair and respectful treatment of all people, enhancement and promotion of inclusivity and diversity, and elimination of racism, discrimination and bias.”*

#### **May Market – May 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Fire Department Union Contract Update**

**First Selectman Moll** reported that the Fire Department Union and Town of Suffield have reached a tentative agreement on their new contract.

### **Dustin Doyon Memorial Run**

**Selectman Mahoney** wanted to remind everyone that the Dustin Doyon Memorial Run will be taking place over the Memorial Day Weekend and encouraged all to come out and participate.

### **Bridge Street Park**

**Selectman Hill** noted that he is looking forward to further discussion regarding the Bridge Street Park and would like to get the project moving.

### **Public Comment**

None

**Selectman Mahoney motioned to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary